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Interim Director

**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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April 26, 2011

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
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From: Jackie Contreras, Ph.D.  
Interim Director

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO NEGOTIATE A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH KIDSAVE INTERNATIONAL**

This is to inform your Board that the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) intends to commence negotiations for a sole source contract with Kidsave International (Kidsave) on May 10, 2011. Kidsave was founded in 1997 and has been a leading child advocacy organization helping older kids in foster care meet people who might adopt them. Kidsave specializes in locating homes for hard-to-place older youth. Kidsave is to provide grant-funded recruitment services to support the DCFS Adoptions Division. DCFS will proceed with the sole source contract negotiation within two weeks unless otherwise instructed by a Board office.

DCFS plans to use the sole source contract to recruit adoptive families for children in the DCFS foster care system and youth under the jurisdiction of the Probation Department. This contract is for a weekend hosting program to recruit weekend hosts and prospective adoptive families to meet the needs of older African-American, Latino, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning youth. There are nearly 500 children in need of a permanent family or a permanent adult connection. Many older youth are resistant to traditional recruitment activities and are not open to being adopted, therefore, the weekend host families would allow both the youth and the family to move slowly in building a trusting relationship. The services provided by Kidsave will include: (1) recruitment of organizations to promote adoption services; (2) recruitment of families to meet and encourage adoption of targeted children; and, (3) training and support to prospective adoptive families.

On June 1, 2010, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a grant opportunity for government agencies to receive a \$2.0 million grant over a five year period for cooperative agreements for comprehensive multi-faceted diligent recruitment programs for a range of resource families including kinship, foster care, concurrent planning, and adoptive parents. DCFS submitted the proposal entitled "Collaborative Strategies for Diligent Recruitment" and identified the partners/providers. The grant was subsequently awarded. Any changes would require HHS approval.

DCFS was able to identify Kidsave as a partner in spite of the short time frames required by HHS to submit the grant proposal with partners included by August 2, 2010. It is believed that Kidsave's weekend hosting program is a unique program that has not been replicated by any other known agency. Kidsave is one of five contractors to participate in this DCFS grant. It is the only agency receiving a sole source contract of more than \$250,000, which requires notification to your Board.

The above stated reasons comply with the sole source justification category: Other Reason – due to the short time frame available to submit the grant proposal, there was insufficient time to perform a competitive bidding to ascertain other similar providers as stipulated in the County's Sole Source Contracting Policy Number 5.100 in the County of Los Angeles, County Code.

DCFS will use 100% of federal grant funds to pay for these services. The funds were awarded to the County by HHS on September 30, 2010. These grant funds were accepted by your Board on March 1, 2011. An estimate for Kidsave's implementation of the services is \$477,158 at no net County cost.

The preferred start date of the sole source contract with Kidsave is July 1, 2011.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

JC:CMM:AM  
KAF:SN:sg

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel